



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #5000
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-RAG-RS

26 September 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR Members, US Army Alaska Retiree Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, US Army Alaska Retiree Council (21 Sep 05)

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program, the US Army Alaska Retiree Council met 21 September 2005, 7:00 p.m., Building 600 Room A306. Chairperson Ernie Barndt presided.
2. Mission Statement: Provide the Army retired community with the opportunity to communicate with the Active Army on decisions, policies, programs, proposals, initiatives and laws affecting the retired community and create a strong communication link between the Active Army and the retired community that supports the Army program.

3. Present:

Ernie Barndt
Jim McCullough
Michael Baty
Ollen Hunt
Jack Murray
Lou Bradley
Gordon Severson
Antonio Harris

Fran Barndt
Sara McCullough
Norman Schlittler
John Jigliotti
Ira Rion, Jr.
Brad Bradley
Aud Severson

4. Absent:

Connie Heidemann
Jimmie Pierce
Anne Skinner
Richard Scisz
James Roach
Bob Wienhold

Emmet Heidemann
Miles Pierce
James Skinner
Susie Baty
W. D. Pollard
Hannah Hunt

5. Others:

COL Donna Boltz, USAG-AK Cdr
Sharon Harris, RSO

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6. Chairperson Ernie Barndt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
7. Minutes: Ira Rion motioned May meeting minutes be approved as written and Gordon Severson seconded.
8. New Attendees: Antonio Harris, retired Army and COL Donna G. Boltz, USAG-AK Cdr.
9. Committee Reports:
 - a. Commissary/AAFES (W.D.): W.D. was not in attendance. No report.
 - b. Legislative: No formal report. Gordon Severson asked how many retirees would be interested in the Alaska Longevity bonus. Brad Bradley stated the Longevity Bill is still around but the funding was vetoed by the Governor. A hearing will be conducted at the Fairbanks courthouse on 26 Sep 05. The case is Helen Simpson vs. Murkowski. Ms. Simpson died a few months ago but there are five other plaintiffs in this case. Joe Jefferson is an attorney for this case. Ruth Boles, member of the group, will be presenting the case in Fairbanks. Jackson Murray asked if it will be retroactive. Gordon stated he was unsure. Ollen Hunt stated it was rotten of the legislature to take bread out of an older person's mouth. Brad stated there is not anyone in the current legislature that had received the bonus.
 - c. OSC (Sara): Sara stated the OSC will be changing its name. It is now an all inclusive club. They extended an invitation to the enlisted wives to join. This is actually the 3d or 4th time the organization has extended this invitation. The CG and his spouse are definitely in support of having an all inclusive club. Gordon Severson asked if the Air Force was doing the same with their club. Sara stated she think the Air Force NCO club is still very much active. The Annual Welcome will be held on Oct 20, 05. The Country Fair will be held on 4-5 Nov at Buckner Physical Fitness Center (BPFC). Everything is going well concerning the fair and the club is looking forward to a very productive event. The All Inclusive Club has a mthly newsletter in which they sell ads. Anyone interested in advertising their business can contact Sara
 - d. CAC (Jim): Meetings are being held in Bldg 7 (new FRA Education Community Center). The command is placing a lot of emphasis on safety. 15 Sep studded tires were allowed. Start early preparing your vehicles for the winter. Johnson tire service is issuing vouchers for free tire change over for families of deployed soldiers. POV accidents are the largest killer outside of combat. Use the four second rule instead of the two second rule when following vehicles during the winter. Motorcycle season is officially over with the first snowfall. 30 Oct 05 is Daylight Savings Time. The new Thrift Store (next to the Post Office) will open on 1 Oct 05. The next CAC meeting will be 18 Oct 05. Jim will be out of town, therefore needing a volunteer to attend.
 - e. Health care (Norm): Norm thanked Gordon for attending the Jun meeting. Gordon

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stated it was an interesting meeting and well attended. The hospital Commander was in attendance. The Air Force IG team had conducted a survey earlier during the summer. Norm had consulted with Sharon to see if there were any complaints from the retirees. Sharon did not have any. The 15 Sep meeting was cancelled due to an exercise. The VA Regional is providing flu shots M, W, F, 8:30-11:00 am and 1:00-3:30 pm through November. Sara stated Elmendorf hospital will give the flu shot also. Ernie stated he and Fran had received great eye care service from Fort Richardson TMC. He presented the MAJ with a certificate from the Retiree Council. Fran informed the council that there are no clinic appts available for those 65 and older at Elmendorf. Brad informed the council of an announcement in the paper reference to Prostate Cancer screening being conducted at the VA Hospital. He suggested anyone over 40 should get checked and it is free. Timeliness is important. Purple Heart Chapter has lost members to this cancer.

f. Well Being. Next meeting will be 11 Oct, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Garrison Commander Conference Room. Jackson Murray and Ira Rion will attend for the council.

g. Garrison Commander comments: COL Boltz asked the council how/what she could do in assisting the council. She suggested providing an update of what is happening on post at each meeting. The council agreed that information would be greatly appreciated. Current projects under construction now on FRA:

(1) Long term road construction project to improve the road to handle traffic from FRA through Elmendorf to the Port of Anchorage;

(2) Grady Road Extension – included in the Air Force Prioritized housing. 15 Oct is the deadline to put in the asphalt. If this happens on time, 5 Nov the road will open to connect FRA to Elmendorf near the PX/BX.

(3) EPA to put a bridge and bike path across Ship Creek.

(4) Modularity buildings being placed around post is temporary barracks for the new soldiers. The question was asked as to how long the soldiers will be expected to reside in these temporary facilities. COL Boltz informed the council that the buildings are really nice. Each is a three man apartment. The soldiers will probably live there for 5 – 7 years. The BDE will take ownership of the buildings on 1 Oct 05. Also, COL Boltz suggested a tour of the facility could be conducted during the RAD. Sharon will work with COL Boltz to coordinate the tour. Michael Baty asked the Garrison Commander about 4-23 IN returning from deployment and their move to FWA. COL Boltz stated 4-23 IN vacated their buildings prior to deployment and will go to FWA upon their redeployment. Family members were given three options for relocation prior to the deployment. They could move before, during or 90 days after redeployment. Most decided to stay and many decided to return to the Lower 48. There is great FRG support here. The overall BDE size is approximately 3800. This number includes an

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addition of approximately 2600 as 1-501st IN was already here. The soldiers are coming in large numbers. Newcomers briefing earlier this week had 170 soldiers.

(5) New housing behind Birch Hill – Kodiak project that includes new General Officer quarters. Michael Baty asked if a new chapel was to be built. COL Boltz stated the existing chapel will be expanded.

10. Old Business: Retiree Appreciation Day update: Guest Speakers have been confirmed: Commanding General (CG), Ms. Avis Allen, Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services, COL Herremans, Deputy Commander, Elmendorf Hospital, and Mr. Joe Montoya, TRICARE Retiree Dental Program representative. Event will take place at Bldg 7. Invitations went out to over 7,000 retirees (all branches). Current attendee count is 110. The following organizations have responded as participating: ASYMCA, Staff Judge Advocate, Medical/Dental, AAFES PX, Provost Marshal, ID Cards, DMWR (Outdoor Recreation, Arts & Crafts, and Auto craft shop), AK National Guard Retirement Services, Veterans Affairs Office, Fort Richardson National Cemetery, MEDICARE, and Veteran Service Organization (VFW).

11. New Business:

a. Flag Retirement Ceremony. Ernie announced Eagle River Knights of Columbus will conduct a Flag Retirement ceremony in June 2006. Anyone with old flags can bring them to him and he will get the flag to the group to be properly disposed of. The council was informed that the Muldoon Legion Post 29 also retire flags.

b. Sharon attended the RSO Workshop (15-19 Aug) in Alexandria, VA and would like to provide a briefing in the upcoming months on a few topics such as Army Knowledge Online (AKO) accounts, MyPay accounts, Retiree recalls, and Freedom Team Salute

c. Chairperson Ernie presented coins to Brad and Lou Bradley who were not in attendance at the 21 Apr Volunteer Recognition Ceremony (VRC). Other retirees that were awarded coins are W.D. Pollard and Richard Slisz. Their coins can be picked up from the RSO.

d. Chairperson, Ernie Barndt conducted nominations for Vice Chairman. Jackson Murray was elected Vice Chairman by majority.

12. Announcements:

a. Sharon reiterated to the council that there is a Retiree website on the USARAK Home page. The URL is www.usarak.army.mil/ak/retiree/. Lots of good information is posted on the site.

b. Fran welcomed Aud Severson back to the meetings.

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c. Chairperson Ernie Barndt thanked the Garrison Commander for attending the meeting.

13. Adjournment: Norm Schlittler motioned the meeting be adjourned at 8:00.

14. Next Meeting: Oct 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Building 600, Room A306. Refreshments will be provided by Michael Baty.

//Original Signed//
ERNIE BARNDT
Chairperson

I have reviewed the minutes.

//Original Signed//
SHARON HARRIS
Retirement Services Officer